

CLAIMS

1. An air-bag comprising an inflatable element having an inflatable region and a gas inlet throat extending from the inflatable region, a gusset of excess fabric being present in the region proximate to the junction between the gas inlet throat and the inflatable region.

2. An air-bag according to Claim 1, wherein the inflatable region and the gas inlet throat each have at least two side edges, one side edge of the gas inlet throat being substantially aligned with one side of the inflatable region, the other side edge of the gas inlet throat being substantially perpendicular to another side edge of the inflatable region, said gusset being located adjacent the junction of the said other side edge of the gas inlet throat and said another side edge of the inflatable region.

3. An air-bag according to claim 1, wherein the gas inlet throat is cranked and extends from a point between the ends of one side edge of the inflatable region, one part of the throat being substantially parallel with the said one side edge.

4. An air-bag according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein the gusset is formed integrally with the air-bag.

5. An air-bag according to any one of Claims 1 to 4, wherein the inflatable region has a gas flow passage formed within it, said gas flow passage defining a first axis, and at least part of said gas inlet throat configured to be connected to an inflator defines a second axis, the air-bag having a first and a second

configuration, the axis of the gas flow passage and the axis of the gas inlet throat defining an oblique angle therebetween in the first configuration, the two axes being co-aligned or parallel and said gusset of excess fabric being present in the region proximate to the junction between the gas inlet throat and the inflatable region in the second configuration.

6. An air-bag according to Claim 5, wherein the inflatable region incorporates a plurality of cells defined by seams in the air-bag, the cells communicating with the gas flow passage.

7. An air-bag according to Claim 6, wherein straps extend from spaced apart points on the inflatable region, each strap having a free end adapted to be secured to a respective anchoring point formed on the interior of a vehicle.

8. An air-bag according to any one of the preceding Claims, wherein the air-bag is formed from woven fabric.

9. An air-bag according to Claim 8 as dependent on any one of Claims 5 to 7, wherein the woven fabric has warp and weft yarns, the axis defined by the gas flow passage being aligned with either the warp yarns or the weft yarns of the woven fabric, and the said axis defined by the gas inlet throat being inclined at said oblique angle relative to either the warp yarns or the weft yarns of the fabric.

10. An air-bag according to Claim 5 or any claim dependent thereon wherein said oblique angle is between 10 and 20 degrees.

11. An air-bag according to Claim 10, wherein said oblique angle is 15 degrees.

12. A method for processing an air-bag for mounting in a vehicle, the air-bag comprising an inflatable element having an inflatable region and a gas inlet throat extending from a side edge of the inflatable region, said inflatable region having a gas flow passage formed within it, said gas flow passage defining a first axis; said gas inlet throat having a part configured to an inflator, which part defines a second axis, the gas inlet throat initially extending from the inflatable region, the method comprising the step of re-positioning the gas inlet throat from a first condition in which the axis defined by said gas inlet throat is inclined relative to the axis defined by the gas flow passage to a second condition in which the axis defined by the gas inlet throat is aligned with the axis defined by the gas flow passage, thereby forming a gusset of excess material, said gusset being located adjacent the junction of the gas inlet throat and the side edge of the inflatable region.

13. A method of processing an air-bag according to Claim 12, further comprising the step of concertina-folding the inflatable region.

14. A method of processing an air-bag according to Claim 13, wherein the concertina folds are parallel to the axis defined by the gas flow passage of the inflatable region.

15. A method of processing an air-bag according to any one of Claims 12 to 14, the method further comprising the step of encasing the air-bag in a sleeve or housing.

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16. A method of processing an air-bag according to Claim 15, further comprising the step of locating parts of the air-bag to extend through apertures formed in the sleeve or housing such that said parts protrude from the sleeve or housing.

17. A method of processing an air-bag according to any one of Claims 12 to 16 further comprising the step of connecting the gas inlet throat to a gas generator.